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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:WEAGLETON:LJP
APPROVED BY EUR-MR. HARTMAN
S/S-O: D. MACK
S: J. COVEY
P:PMARTINEZ
---------- 039986
O 030207Z APR 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA NIACT IMMEDIATE
COMMANDER AFRC GARMISH NIACT IMMEDIATE

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NODIS
MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

GARMISH FOR AMBASSADORS MACOMBER, KUBISCH ONLY REPEAT ONLY

ATHENS, ANKARA NICOSIA FOR CHARGE ONLY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJ: REVISED TEXTS OF SUGGESTED DRAFT EXCHANGE OF
LETTERS BETWEEN BITSIOS AND THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 079684

1. AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED ON HARTMAN APRIL 2 TO
DELIVER TEXTS INDICATING SOME CHANGES THAT BITSIOS WOULD
LIKE TO MAKE IN THE SUGGESTED EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN
BITSIOS AND THE SECRETARY (REFTEL). THESE SUGGESTED CHANGES
WERE STUDIED IN THE DEPARTMENT AND WE HAVE MADE OUR OWN
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MODIFICATIONS OF THE GREEK CHANGES. THE RESULTING TEXTS ARE

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CONVEYED IN PARAS 3 AND 4 BELOW.

2. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ALEXANDRAKIS WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT IF THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS IS TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON IN CONNECTION WITH BITSIOS' VISIT WE WOULD HAVE TO SEPARATE OUT THOSE PORTIONS WHICH DISCUSSED THE US/ TURKISH AGREEMENT AND DEAL WITH THEM SEPARATELY SINCE IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO HAVE SUCH REFERENCES IN A JOINT EXCHANGE IN WASHINGTON. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AMBASSADOR MACOMBER'S ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY TURKISH REACTION TO THE PUBLICATION OF AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN BITSIOS AND THE SECRETARY OF THIS KIND.

3. TEXT OF DRAFT LETTER FROM BITSIOS TO THE SECRETARY. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. SECRETARY: AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, THE SIGNING OF A NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY HAS RAISED SERIOUS APPREHENSIONS IN GREECE. I KNOW YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT I WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE HAVING AN ASSESSMENT FROM YOU OF THIS AGREEMENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE AREA, INCLUDING ITS POSSIBLE EFFECT ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE.

-- IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THESE POINTS I SET FORTH BELOW A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS, ANSWERS TO WHICH WOULD GREATLY ASSIST MY GOVERNMENT IN DETERMINING ITS COURSE OF ACTION:

--1. WHAT IS THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THE NEW UNITED STATES-TURKISH AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THE UNITED STATES WOULD PROVIDE LARGE-SCALE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS? CAN THE UNITED STATES CONFIRM THAT THIS MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS GIVEN EXCLUSIVELY FOR NATO PURPOSES?

--2. HOW DOES THE UNITED STATES SEE THE IMPACT OF ITS AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY ON THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF UNITED STATES MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN GREECE? IS THE UNITED STATES PREPARED TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT GIVING U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN GREECE

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IDENTICAL STATUS AS IN TURKEY AND PROVIDING TO GREECE CONTINUING MILITARY ASSISTANCE ON LEVELS ADEQUATE TO COVER HER DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS AND TO PRESERVE THE RELATIVE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE AREA?

--3. WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES ATTITUDE TOWARD THE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND PARTICULARLY THE IOSSIBILITY OF A SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN THE

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SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN?

--4. IN WHAT WAY DOES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ENVISION ITS AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY AS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A SPEEDY AND JUST SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION?

--I BELIEVE THAT YOUR RESPONSES TO THESE QUESTIONSWILL ASSIST MY GOVERNMENT IN FORMULATING ITS POLICIES AND BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS TO THE WESTERN ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. SINCERELY YOURS. END TEXT.

4. TEXT OF SECRETARY'S DRAFT REPLY TO FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' LETTER. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. MINISTER: THANK

YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF APRIL BLANK IN WHICH YOU REFERRED TO THE RECENTLY SIGNED U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND POSED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REGARDING THAT AGREEMENT AND UNITED STATES POLICY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE OUR POSITION CLEAR WITH REGARD TO THESE ISSUES.

--I SHOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY SEEKS TO PRESERVE THE RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL DEFENSE THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY DURING THE LAST THREE DECADES. THIS AGREEMENT IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST AND STRENGTHEN THE COMMON INTERESTS OF THE ALLIANCE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. AS ARTICLE II OF THE AGREEMENT MAKES CLEAR, THE DEFENSE COOPERATION ENVISAGED IN THE AGREEMENT SHALL BE LIMITED TO OBLIGATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY. THE AGREEMENT FURTHER PROVIDES THAT THE DEFENSE SUPPORT TO BE PROVIDED TO TURKEY SHALL BE EFFECTUATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONTRAC-

TUAL OBLIGATIONS AND WITH THE GENERAL PRACTICES APPLICABLE TO ALL OTHER RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. IT THEREFORE FOLLOWS THE U.S. WOULD BE OPPOSED TO THE USE OF DEFENSE SUPPORT NOT CONSISTENT WITH THESE PURPOSES.

-- WITH RESPECT TO OUR OWN DEFENSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH GREECE, IT IS A MATTER OF HISTORICAL RECORD THAT SINCE WORLD WAR II, OUR COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ALLIES AND HAVE WORKED CLOSELY TOGETHER IN THEIR COMMON DEFENSE. THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO CONTINUE THIS COOPERATION AND TO THAT EFFECT IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH GREECE WHICH: .

--(A) SHALL SECURE FOR THE AMERICAN BASES IN GREECE A SIMILAR STATUS WITH THAT WHICH SHALL GOVERN AMERICAN

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BASES IN TURKEY, UNDER THE NEW U.S.-TURKISH AGREEMENT, AND

--(B) SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE TO GREECE DEFENSE SUPPORT ON A CONTINUING BASIS OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AT LEVELS ADEQUATE TO ASSIST IN COVERING GREECE'S DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS IN SUPPORT OF NATO GOALS.

-- YOU HAVE ASKED ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SETTLING OF DISPUTES IN THE AEGEAN AREA. IN THIS REGARD, I SHOULD LIKE TO REITERATE OUR CONVICTION THAT THESE DISPUTES MUST BE SETTLED THROUGH PEACEFUL PROCEDURES. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY STATED OUR BELIEF THAT NEITHER SIDE SHOULD TAKE ANY MILITARY ACTIONS OR UNILATERAL STEPS THAT COULD PREJUDICE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND LEAD TO MILITARY ACTIONS. THE U.S. WOULD BE OPPOSED TO ANY PROVOCATIVE ACTION BY EITHER SIDE. THEREFORE THE US IS URGING MAXIMUM RESTRAINT

ON BOTH SIDES AND WOULD BE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO EITHER SIDE SEEKING A MILITARY SOLUTION.

-- WITH REGARD TO CYPRUS, I SHOULD LIKE TO REEMPHASIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE OBJECTIVE OF AN EARLY AND JUST SETTLEMENT OF THIS DIVISIVE ISSUE. AS I SAID IN MY UNITED NATIONS ADDRESS, THE PRESENT DIVIDING LINES ON CYPRUS CANNOT BE PERMANENT. THERE MUST BE AGREED TERRITORIAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH RE-

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FLECT THE ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN REQUIREMENTS OF THE GREEK-CYPRIOT COMMUNITY AND TAKE ACCOUNT OF ITS SELF-RESPECT. ON THE BASIS OF OUR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY, AND THE TWO COMMUNITIES IN CYPRUS, WE INTEND TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM THAT WILL PRESERVE THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS AND THAT WILL BENEFIT CYPRUS AND THE REGION. WE ARE READY TO WORK ACTIVELY WITH THE PARTIES TOWARD THIS END. END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, AGREEMENT DRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLICIES, INSTRUCTIONS, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE080359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WEAGLETON:LJP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: I
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604100/aaaadifx.tel
Line Count: 212
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 79684
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVISED TEXTS OF SUGGESTED DRAFT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN BITSIOS AND THE SECRETARY
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS)
To: ATHENS ANKARA NICOSIA CMDR AFRC GARMISCH
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006